

§51.573

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§51.573 Damage.

Damage, unless otherwise specifically defined in this section, means any defect which materially affects the appearance, or the edible or shipping quality of the celery stalk or the general appearance of the stalks in the container. Any one of the following defects, or any combination of defects the seriousness of which exceeds the maximum allowed for any one defect, shall be considered as damage:

(a) Growth cracks when more than 2 branches are affected by growth cracks which are over one-half inch in length, or when more than 6 branches have growth cracks;

(b) Horizontal cracks when more than 3 branches have horizontal cracks which are over one-half inch in length, or when more than 6 branches have horizontal cracks;

(c) Pithy branches when more than 2 are pithy in that portion of the midrib between a point 1½ inches above the point of attachment to the base and the first node, or between a point 1½ inches below the first node and the point of attachment to the base, or when pith occurs at both ends of the midrib and more than a total of 1½ inches is affected: *Provided*, That stalks having 6 outer branches or less shall have not more than one-third of the outer branches affected by pith as described above;

(d) Seedstems when the length of seedstem exceeds twice the diameter of the stalk or 8 inches in length (see §§51.587 and 51.588);

(e) Dirt when there is caked dirt on the stalk, or when dirt is present between the branches to the extent that the appearance is materially affected;

(f) Doubles when not separated and the appearance is materially affected, or when separated and either of the stalks is badly curved;

(g) Disease: (1) Brown stem, cracked stem and crater blotch when materially affecting more than 2 branches, or when the aggregate area exceeds two-thirds of a square inch on the branches; and,

(2) Discoloration when each of more than 2 branches or ¼ of the branches of the stalk, whichever is less, has more than 3 distinct hair-like lines more than 3 inches long occurring on the

outer side of the branch or an aggregate area of more than ¼ by 1 inch of blotch or solid type discoloration occurring on the inner side;

(h) Insects when worms are present, or when insect injury occurs on heart branches, or when insect injury affects the midrib portion of more than 2 branches, or when injury or other portions materially affects the appearance of the stalk; and,

(i) Mechanical injury when the root has been cut off too closely leaving the branches without support; when more than 2 branches are materially scuffed or bruised; when the branches have been broken above the first node to an extent which materially affects the appearance; or when more than 2 branches are broken below the first node except that all branches may be cut below the first node provided the stalk is of the length specified.

§51.574 Green.

Green means that the middle portions of the outer branches on the stalk are generally green to light green color.

§51.575 Fairly well blanched.

Fairly well blanched means that the midrib portions of the outer branches on the stalk are generally of a creamy white to pale green color.

§51.576 Mixed blanch.

Mixed blanch consists of green and fairly well blanched stalks of celery in the same container.

§51.577 Average midrib length.

Average midrib length means the average length of all the branches in the outer whorl measured from the point of attachment at the base to the first node.

§51.578 Branch.

Branch means the leaf of a stalk and consists of the edible stem-like portion and the tops or leaf blades.

§51.579 Length of stalk.

Length of stalk means the distance from where the root is cut off to a point which represents the average length of the longest branches.